

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head assembly comprising:
2 a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns,
3 the first head member adjustably connected to a second head member including
4 a second set of returns;
5 a cutting member connected to the cutting head, the cutting member
6 formed of a strip of material including a thickness in the range of 0.005 inches to
7 0.0015 inches and a width in the range of 0.375 inches to 0.625 inches, a first
8 end, a second end, and a length and a width, the first end of the cutting member
9 secured to the cutting head, the length of the cutting member positioned about the
10 first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine configuration, a
11 leg of the cutting member extending across an aperture formed through the
12 cutting head and the second end of the cutting member secured to the cutting
13 head; and
14 a cutting member tensioning device disposed between and adjustably
15 engaging the first head member and second head member for adjusting a
16 distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and
17 tensioning the cutting member.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1
2 wherein the cutting member tensioning device further comprises one or more
3 cutting member tensioning screws disposed between and threadedly engaging
4 the first head member ~~and second head member~~ for adjusting a distance between
5 the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting
6 member.

1 3. (Original) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the first
2 set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a height substantially
3 equal to a width of cutting member for transferring a substantially equal force
4 across the width of the cutting member.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1
2 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each further
3 comprise a bearing face lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to a
4 longitudinal axis of the leg of the cutting member extending across ~~an~~ the
5 aperture formed through the cutting head.

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1 5. (Original) The cutting assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting
2 member tensioning device adjusts the distance between the first set of returns
3 and the second set of returns imparting a tensive force in excess of 100,000
4 pounds per square inch along the cutting member.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The cutting assembly of Claim 1 wherein
2 the cutting member tensioning device further comprises a screw including a
3 longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of the screw oriented along a plane
4 substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the leg of the cutting member
5 extending across ~~an~~ the aperture formed through the cutting head, the screw
6 adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for
7 adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns
8 for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the
9 longitudinal axis of the screw.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1
2 wherein the cutting member tensioning device further comprises a pair of screws,
3 each of the pair of screws including a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of
4 each of the pair of screws oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a
5 longitudinal axis of the leg of the cutting member extending across ~~an~~ the

6 aperture formed through the cutting head, and each of the pair of screws
7 adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for
8 adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns
9 for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the
10 longitudinal axis of each of the pair of screws.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A cutting head assembly comprising:
2 a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns,
3 the first head member opposingly and adjustably connected to a second head
4 member including a second set of returns;
5 a tensioned blade formed of a strip of material, the ~~first head member~~
6 tensioned blade including a first end, a second end, a length, a longitudinal axis
7 and a width, the tensioned blade positioned about the first set of returns and the
8 second set of returns in a serpentine configuration, a leg of the tensioned blade
9 extending across an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end of the
10 tensioned blade secured to the cutting head by a first end securing member and
11 the second end of the tensioned blade secured to the cutting head by a second
12 end securing member;
13 the first set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially
14 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a
15 substantially equal tensile force across a full width of the tensioned blade,
16 substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade;
17 the second set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially
18 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a tensile
19 force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress
20 risers in the tensioned blade; and
21 a tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and
22 adjustably engaging the first head member and the second head member, each
23 of the one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane
24 substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the leg of the tensioned blade
25 extending across the aperture, for adjusting a distance between the first set of

26 returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a
27 plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more
28 screws.

41 1 9. (Previously Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8
2 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a
3 height substantially equal to the width of the tensioned blade for transferring a
4 substantially equal force across the width of the tensioned blade.

1 10. (Cancelled)
